



# RURAL DEVELOPMENT MISSOURI

Volume 2003

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## BUILDING COMMUNITIES

### FY 2003 FUNDING

For the most part, our Fiscal Year 2003 allocations have been defined. A lot has happened in America over the last few months. Budget actions were delayed as the President and Congress dealt with the issues at hand.

The following are Missouri's allocated funds. You may submit applications for programs at any time throughout the year. Keep in mind that we are over half way through our fiscal year so we have less time to get your applications processed!

Water & Wastewater Direct Loans	\$ 21,348,000
Water & Wastewater Grants	11,361,000
Water & Wastewater Guaranteed Loans	1,506,000
Business & Industry Guaranteed Loans	\$ 25,673,000
Rural Business Enterprise Grants	843,000
Community Facility Guaranteed Loans	\$ 3,819,000
Community Facility Direct Loans	5,848,000
Community Facility Grants	257,000
502 Very Low Direct Housing Loans	\$ 7,923,000
502 Low Direct Housing Loans	10,084,000
502 Guaranteed Housing Loans	54,200,000
504 Home Repair Loans	699,000
504 Home Repair Grants	679,000

### WATER AND WASTEWATER PREDEVELOPMENT PLANNING GRANTS

There is a new grant available to assist in paying costs associated with development of an application for a proposed water or wastewater project. Documents such as Preliminary Engineering Reports and Environmental Reports are required to be obtained up front prior to having funds committed for a project. Predevelopment Planning Grant funds can be used to help pay for these costs. There is \$993,500 available nationwide. Missouri's allocation is \$21,000; however, we will work to obtain additional funding from a possible National Office pooling. Projects are to be selected before July 11. Each grant is limited to \$15,000 or 75% of the project cost, whichever is less. Projects will be selected primarily on funding priorities but will also include the following criteria:

- Limited Resources
- Smallest Systems with Lowest Incomes and
- Funding Availability

Eligibility and Guidelines for the Grant include:

- (a) The Median Household Income (MHI) of the service area must be either below the poverty line or below 80% of the State's MHI.

- (b) The proposed project must be for eligible loan and grant purposes.
- (c) Applicants must show they do not have resources to pay predevelopment expenses on their own.
- (d) Grants are limited to projects the Agency expects to fund soon after the application is submitted.

Eligible pre-development items funded must be agreed to and accepted by Rural Development prior to disbursement of the Grant. If you are interested in applying for this program, or would like additional information, please contact your local Rural Development office. Funds are very limited and, as always, time is of the essence in getting applications submitted.

### ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY FACILITY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

From our summary of 2003 allocations you can see that Community Facility funds available include \$3,819,000 in Guaranteed Loans, \$5,848,000 in Direct Loans, and \$257,000 in Grants. Additional funds for direct and guaranteed loans are available from National Office reserves.

Community Facility programs finance rural health, childcare, education, and fire and safety facilities and equipment; jails, libraries, and almost any other type of essential community facility needed in rural America.

We have also been advised that, in addition to our State allocations and National Office reserve funds, the Community Facility Economic Initiative Grant Fund program will be available this fiscal year. About \$16 million will be available for the nation.

Applications for this program will be submitted in accordance with the Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) which is expected out soon. It appears this program will have a short timeframe in which applications can be submitted. Applications should be completed and submitted to the local Rural Development office as soon as possible to take advantage of these funds. The proposed deadline and pooling date is July 1, 2003. Watch for this NOFA announcement at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/nofas/index.html/> or stay in contact with your local Rural Development office.

***USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410***

## MORE ON FUNDING.....

### **Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG):**

- Grants made by USDA Rural Development to public bodies, not for profit entities or Indian tribes to support the development of private business enterprise. Limited to communities of 50,000 population or less.
- National Office will have one funding cycle this fiscal year.
- Submission of funding requests should be made to the local office by **June 16, 2003**.

### **Distance Learning & Telemedicine Program:**

- Website for information on this program is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm>

### **Rural Economic Development Loans/Grants (REDL/REDG):**

- These are 0% interest rate loans to Rural Electric Cooperatives and REA telephone borrowers to promote rural economic development and/or job creation projects.
- Grants to Rural Electric Cooperatives and REA telephone borrowers for revolving loan funds for community facilities and infrastructure.
- **Applications can be submitted at any time.**

### **Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG):**

- Grants made by USDA Rural Development to public bodies and not for profit entities including Federally recognized Indian tribes in rural areas, and cooperatives with members that are primarily rural residents and that conduct activities for the mutual benefit of the members.
- Maximum Grant is \$50,000
- Submission of funding requests should be made to the local office by **June 2, 2003**.

### **Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI):**

- NOFA will be coming out shortly on RCDI and RCDI Home Based Healthcare. Watch the NOFA website listed on the front page for more information.

### **Value Added Development Grant (VADG):**

- Encourages independent producers and producer groups of agricultural commodities to further refine these products increasing their value to end users.
- Establishes an Information Resource Center to collect, disseminate, coordinate, and provide information on value-added processing to independent producers and processors.
- Expect announcement requesting applications in late summer.

Information about any of these and other Rural Development programs can also be obtained by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>

**FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO A  
FRIEND WHO "NEEDS TO KNOW"!**

## **EARTH DAY CELEBRATION PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT #5 NEW MADRID COUNTY**



Pictured front row - left to right: Mr. Greg Branum, State Director - USDA Rural Development, Mr. Bob Ray, Chairman for Public Water Supply District #5, Ms. Peggy Allen, Secretary for Public Water Supply District #5, Pictured back row - left to right: Mr. Clyde Hawes, Presiding Commissioner, New Madrid County, Mr. Larry Woolverton, Board Member for Public Water Supply District #5, Mr. Richard Cochran, Engineer - Waters and Associates, Mr. David Pullen, Rural Development Specialist, Dexter, MO., Mr. James Gosche, Rural Development Manager, Dexter, MO., Mr. Joseph Russell, Maintenance for Public Water Supply District #5, Ms. Louise Brown, Board Member for Public Water Supply District #5

During our April 22, 2003, Earth Day celebration, Greg Branum, State Director for Missouri USDA Rural Development, presented Public Water Supply District (PWSD) #5 of New Madrid County with a mock check for \$3,046,200.00.

"The funds will allow for the water district to extend their services to an additional 300 users. When these extensions are completed for Phase III the District will be serving 990 households in New Madrid County," Branum said. Branum gave special recognition to U.S. Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond; U.S. Senator Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for their coordination of funding for the project and recognized the District's Chairman, Mr. Bob Ray for his years of dedicated service.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development has also been a partner in this project from the beginning according to Branum and he also recognized Senator Bill Foster, State Representative Lanie Black and State Representative Denny Merideth III for their efforts in funding the project.

## **ONE FINAL NOTE.....**

Last year we were able to obligate more dollars than were originally allocated to us. This was possible because communities and individuals had completed applications on file in their local RD office. Periodically other funds become available to Missouri, over and above our original allocations, such as National Office pooling of funds that other states do not use. **The bottom line is if you never get an application filed then it is certain it will never be funded. And, if you wait to file your application when RD has plenty of money, then by the time you have your application ready other projects that were already complete and in our offices will be funded ahead of you.**

Come visit Missouri Rural Development  
on the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/index.html>